

In re Patent Application of:
GREGG ET AL.
Serial No. 09/680,721
Filed: OCTOBER 6, 2000

REMARKS

Applicants again thank the Examiner for the careful and thorough examination of the present application. By this amendment, independent Claims 17 and 61 have been amended to more clearly define the present invention and eliminate the Examiner's concern with "a coating or impregnation." Accordingly, the amendment does not raise any new issues and should be entered. Claims 17, 18, 20-28 and 54-64 remain pending in the application, and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the lengthy and piecemeal examination.

I. The Claims are Patentable

Claims 17, 18, 20-28 and 61-64 were primarily rejected in view of Dinkel (U.S. 3,284,980) in combination with Huege et al. (U.S. 6,395,205) for the reasons set forth on pages 2-6 of the Office Action. Applicants contend that Claims 17, 18, 20-28 and 61-64 clearly define over the cited references, and in view of the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

The Dinkel patent, relied upon by the Examiner, is directed to a cement panel with a low density core and fiber reinforced surface layers. As previously discussed, the fibers in Dinkel, e.g. as provided by Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation, are coated with a vinyl resin. As can be seen in FIG. 2 of the Dinkel patent, the panel includes a mortar, e.g. a hydraulic cement slurry, poured over the fiber layer to penetrate the openings of the vinyl coated fiber mesh and

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provide intimate contact with the core. Clearly, the Dinkel patent does not disclose a resin layer covering and contacting one of the major surfaces of the core and incorporating the fiber mesh therein, as claimed.

Additionally, there is no discussion of using a monolithic body of autoclaved aerated concrete or a core consisting essentially of autoclaved aerated concrete, in combination with a moisture-resistant resin face layer covering and contacting the core and incorporating the fibers therein, as disclosed and claimed in the present application. Also, none of the other cited references disclose this combination of features.

There is simply no teaching or suggestion in the cited references to provide the combination of features as claimed. Accordingly, for at least the reasons given above, Applicants maintain that the cited references do not disclose or fairly suggest the invention as set forth in the independent claims. Furthermore, no proper modification of the teachings of these references could result in the invention as claimed. Thus, the rejections should be withdrawn.

It is submitted that the independent claims are patentable over the prior art. In view of the patentability of the independent claims, it is submitted that their dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features are also patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, these dependent claims require no further discussion herein.

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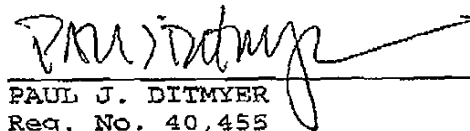
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II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited. If, after reviewing this Response, there are any remaining informalities which need to be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited and respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such informalities.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing correspondence has been forwarded via facsimile number 703-872-9306 to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 this 23rd day of December, 2003.

